

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on
Student Life**

**Held on January 20, 2006
SGW Campus H 769 10:00am**

PRESENT: Mr. K. Pruden, Chair, Ms M. Burns, Secretary, Ms H. Ayouby, Ms C. Boujaklian, Ms D. Caputo, Mr. R. Côté, Mr. W. Curran, Ms M. Drew, Dr. S. M. Graub, Ms K. Hedrich, Ms I. Lacelle, Mr. R. Lobo, Ms C. Marshall, Ms I. Mort, Mr. O. Moran, Ms B. Mugenyi, Ms C. Reimer, Mr. S. Rosenshein, Mr. P. Schiefke, Ms C. Shaffer, Ms K. Sheahan, Ms L. Stanbra, Ms B. St-Laurent

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Mr. J. Brisebois, Dr. M. Mulrennan, Ms P. Posius, Dr. F. Shaver

ABSENT: Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano

DELEGATES: Ms J. Beaudoin for Dr. Mulrennan, Ms J. deCubellis for Ms Posius

GUESTS: Ms M. Berryman

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

One item was added to the agenda under Item 5, Reports: Library Survey.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Dr. Graub and seconded by Mr. Schiefke.

The motion was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Pruden wished Council a Happy New Year. He introduced and welcomed a new member of Council, Daniela Caputo, who is the Continuing Education representative. Mr. Côté introduced Laura Stanbra, the new Director of Financial Aid and Awards, and Brigitte St-Laurent, the new Director of Support Services. He briefly described their backgrounds, and welcomed them to Council. He also thanked the CSU students who had been involved in the search process for these positions.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF Nov. 4, 2005

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms Lacelle and seconded by Mr. Rosenshein.

The motion was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Campus Wellness Initiative

Mr. Moran reported that the new Campus Wellness Committee had its first meeting a couple of weeks ago. They are in the process of formulating a vision and goals for the committee. One goal is to consolidate all the various information that is available into one document that could go on the Concordia website. At present the committee is comprised of Mr. Moran, Ms Reimer, Ms Shaffer and Ms Louyse Lussier as Chair. The committee is interested in expanding to include members from outside CCSL, possibly someone from Sustainable Concordia and someone from Recreation and Athletics. Mr. Pruden reminded Council that this committee would bring forward specific proposals for Council's approval.

4.2 Drug & Alcohol Task Force

Mr. Pruden reported that the Task Force had been scheduled to meet earlier this week, but the inclement weather prevented most members from attending; therefore the meeting was postponed. It will be re-scheduled for the very near future.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Non-Smoking Policy

Mr. Pruden announced that the issue of the yellow lines was raised at a recent Health and Safety meeting. More yellow lines will soon be painted in designated areas on the Loyola Campus. The university will be obliged to enforce the rules over the next few months. Security is still reluctant to fine students. At the same time the university could be fined for not enforcing the rules. Some council members remarked that they still see people smoking within the lines. Mr. Moran observed that fining could be a very effective deterrent, noting that if students can afford to smoke they can afford to pay the fine. He also suggested that students caught smoking within the parameters might be obliged to attend workshops designed to help people quit smoking, or other discussion groups, as an alternative to paying a fine. Ms Hedrich remarked that the lines are ineffective without some sort of penalty in place. Mr. Schiefke suggested contacting other universities to learn how they are dealing with this issue. Ms Drew reminded Council that Residence still has a big problem enforcing smoking within Residence. There is a safety issue given that Residence does not have a sprinkler system.

5.2 Library Survey

Mr. Curran announced that the library is joining 500 academic libraries to distribute a survey to users of the Concordia libraries. They are using a standardized survey that was developed by the Association of Research Libraries, called Lib-QUAL, designed to measure user satisfaction. The survey is web-based and is intended for students, staff and faculty. This is the first time Concordia is using this survey; McGill has been using it for the last several years. He urged Council to take the time to complete the survey if they are selected, and to encourage others to do the same. He will report back to Council with the results.

At this point M. Brisebois arrived to introduce M. Robert Rivard, the new Security Operations Manager. He informed Council that M. Rivard has a great deal of experience in tactical administration, as well as 28 years with the RCMP. He apologized that he was unable to be present for the full meeting.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

6.1 CCSL Awards

Mr. Pruden announced that the deadline for nominations for the 2006 CCSL Awards will be established soon, and encouraged Council to remind people in their various sectors about the CCSL Awards. There is no minimum or maximum number of awards given; in past years it has varied widely. Mr. Pruden intends to be more stringent with the criteria this year.

The next deadline for CCSL Special Projects has been set for March 3, 2006.

6.2 Student Elections

Mr. Pruden remarked that he intends to discuss with CSU the possibility of minimizing the amount of paper used in their election campaigns. He would like to reduce the number of posters and flyers; not only to save paper but because the latter wreak havoc with the escalators. He suggested that the Concordia website and myConcordia Portal could be effective avenues of publicity. He invited comments from the student representatives.

Ms. Marshall remarked that fewer posters would make it harder for individuals to promote themselves. The slates tend to get all the poster space. Mr. Rosenshein concurred that posterage is a problem, but at

the same time it is an effective method of publicity. He suggested that portable bulletin boards be made available at election time, thereby reducing posters on wall space. He also suggested placing recycle bins at the top of escalators. Mr. Schiefke remarked that last year they used more paper, but they had a higher voter turnout. He also informed Council that ASFA elections would be held February 14-16, 2006. Ms. Mort suggested using CUTV and CJLO radio to publicize the elections. Mr. Schiefke replied that in fact they have a very small audience base.

Ms. Hedrich asked if CSU had approached IITS about the possibility of students voting online. Mr. Rosenshein replied that they have looked into it but CSU rejected the idea for this year. They are hoping to implement it next year. Mr. Lobo asked if Council could help encourage faculty to allow students to make announcements in their classes. Mr. Pruden said that the Dean of Students office could send a letter encouraging Faculty to cooperate. Ms. Hedrich suggested that if CSU are planning to put forward any referendum questions regarding fee levies, they should contact her in advance. She can help them with the correct wording so that it will go through smoothly.

6.3 SGW Recreation & Athletics Facility

Ms. Sheahan presented a brief background on the evolution of the new recreation and athletics facility to be built in the Engineering and Visual Arts Building. She informed Council that construction is about to begin on the first phase of the facility. This will include two dance studios for the Contemporary Dance Department, and one multi-purpose space for everyone. In addition, approximately 40% of the locker room area will be built, including lounge space. Concordia will continue to use the Victoria Gym until March 31, 2006, when the lease expires. Ms. Sheahan remarked that she believes this is a healthy start. The university is funding the first phase of construction, because it is primarily academic space. They are still looking into various options to raise the funds needed to complete the expansion. One option would include sharing the space with an external service provider. This third party would be mandated to offer the best possible service to students at the lowest possible price. She promised to keep Council informed of their progress. Mr. Schiefke asked if a committee could be set up to include student input on this issue. Ms. Sheahan agreed and suggested they could meet before the next CCSL meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Côté announced that the number of FTEs (fulltime equivalents) is at an all-time high, with a total of 23,967. This is significantly higher than at the same time last year. Concordia has grown by 40% since 1996. In terms of actual students, the total is approximately 37,000 students registered in programs, plus 6,000 continuing education students, for a total of 43,000 students. Concordia is now one of the largest universities in Canada, with a large number of international students. Mr. Moran asked whether Concordia students have a higher average age; Mr. Côté confirmed that the average age is 24.2 years, as compared to 22 years at other universities. 30% of Concordia students are mature students.

Ms. Hedrich expressed concern about the error in the CSU handbook regarding course withdrawal deadlines. Some students missed the deadline because of the incorrect date, and were unable to get their tuition refunded. She asked how these kinds of errors can be avoided in the future, and offered to proofread sections of the handbook before it goes to print. Ms. Sheahan also offered to help find people who would be willing to proofread. She suggested that, rather than printing actual dates, the handbook could refer students to one source; thereby reducing the potential for error. Mr. Schiefke remarked that the lack of continuity on CSU from year to year is a problem. Mr. Rosenshein offered to inform the people who will be doing next year's Handbook that they can send sections to various departments to double check the dates before printing. CSU does not want this kind of mistake to happen again.

Mr. Rosenshein asked if anyone knew why there is a large TV near the café on the first floor of the Hall Building. He remarked that it is always on CNN, and wondered if it could be set to CBC. Ms. DeCubellis offered to look into this matter.